

Message Text

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70

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NSCE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-15 USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-15 OMB-01 COME-00 DRC-01

(ADP) W

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R 290715Z SEP 73

FM USLO PEKING

TO AMCONSUL HONG KONG

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 799

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

C O N F I D E N T I A L PEKING 1154

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT CH

SUBJECT: OBSERVATIONS IN PEKING AS NATIONAL DAY APPROACHES

1. PEKING IS BEING SPRUCED UP FOR ITS 24TH NATIONAL DAY. IT IS NOT A MAJOR EFFORT--THE USUAL STRINGS OF LIGHTS ON BUILDINGS AROUND TIEN AN MEN ARE BEING TESTED, BUILDINGS AT TUNG TAN ARE BEING CLEANED UP, SIGNS ARE BEING FRESHLY PAINTED, SINGING CHILDREN ARE BEING HERDED IN GROUPS TO REHEARSALS, RED FLAGS HAVE GONE UP AT THE INTERNATIONAL CLUB AND ENTRANCES TO OTHER BUILDINGS.

2. THE GREAT HALL OF THE PEOPLE HAS BEEN BUSY WITH A SERIES OF MEETINGS INVOLVING, WE ESTIMATE, SEVERAL HUNDRED PEOPLE. BLACK RED FLAG LIMOUSINES AND MERCEDES-BENZ 220'S MANY WITH MILITARY PLATES, HAVE BEEN PARKED ON THE UPPER LEVEL OF THE NORTH ENTRANCE, WHILE 30-40 SHANGHAIS AND OTHER LESS EXALTED VEHICLES HAVE BEEN PARKED AT THE LOWER LEVELS. FOUR BUSLOADS OF CHINESE LEFT FROM THE EAST ENTRANCE AT ABOUT 5:00 P.M. ON 26 SEPT. APPARENTLY AFTER A DAY OF WORK IN THE GREAT HALL. THE PROBABLE TOPICS FOR THESE MEETINGS ARE BOTH ARRANGEMENTS FOR 1 OCTOBER AND PREPARATIONS FOR THE NATIONAL PEOPLE'S

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CONGRESS. THE LATEST SCUTTLEBUT ON THE TIMING OF THE NPC HAS

IT OCCURRING SHORTLY AFTER OCTOBER 1. WE HAVE NOTED NO
ACTIVITY, ON THE CONTRARY, AT THE CHINESE PEOPLE'S
POLITICAL CONSULTATIVE CONFERENCE BUILDING.

3. THE SLOGANS WE HAVE OBSERVED THUS FAR AT TIEN AN MEN ARE
GENERAL -- STRESSING UNITY IN CHINA, UNITY OF THE
PROLETARIAN CLASS OF THE WHOLE WORLD, VICTORY OF THE
CULTURAL REVOLUTION, ETC. A LARGE PORTRAIT OF SUN YAT-SEN
WAS PUT UP IN THE LAST FEW DAYS DIRECTLY IN FRONT OF
THE MARTYR'S MEMORIAL. SUN'S PORTRAIT IS ABOUT THE SIZE
OF MAO'S ON TIEN AN MEN BUT SLIGHTLY LOWER IN ELEVATION.
SUN FACES MAO DIRECTLY ACROSS THE SQUARE WHILE THE PANTHEON OF
COMMUNISM MARX, ENGELS, LENIN AND STALIN ARE AT THEIR USUAL
PLACES ON THE EAST AND WEST SIDE OF TIEN AN MEN. WE SEEM TO
RECALL THAT SUN'S PORTRAIT HAS BEEN PUT UP BEFORE ON 1 OCTOBER
BUT WOULD LIKE HONG KONG TO CHECK THIS. WHETHER OR NOT IT IS
A FIRST FOR SUN ON 1 OCTOBER, THE CHINESE APPEAR TO BE
DEMONSTRATING TO ALL IN GRAPHIC TERMS THEIR "UNITY OF ALL CHINA"
THEME.
BRUCE

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NNN

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